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COLD WAR SALESMEN ---
SECRET GERMAN FUND

THE WEATHER

San Francisco Chronicle
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By David Kraslow and Robert Boyd

An organization of German industrialists is financing a worldwide publicity campaign to sell the "hard line" in the cold war.

The State Department, the Justice Department and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee are seeking more information about the mysterious group.

The West German government apparently is now contributing funds to the 3-year-old organization, known as "A Committee Representing German Industrialists, Civic and Political Groups."

The "committee" paid more than $400,000 to an American public relations firm in less than two years to advance its aims in this country.

The firm, Julius Klein Public Relations, Inc., spent over $300,000 to "advise" American Congressmen, businessmen and newspapermen of the "danger of any compromise with the Soviets" and of other German views.

This sum represents "only a small portion" of the money spent worldwide by the West German committee, according to sworn records on file with the Justice Department.

The unofficial fund is separate from the money spent by the West German government in its global network of embassies and press information offices.

It is also separate from the $100,000-plus West Germany annually pays to its "official" public relations outlet in this country, Roy Bernard Company.

Money to finance the operations of the big businessmen's committee is collected in a special fund administered by the Frankfurter Bank of Frankfurt, Germany.

The bank says contributions come from German "circles of trade and industry" as well as several "offices" of the West German government.

The Justice Department asked the committee's American agent, Julius Klein, to find out who was bankrolling him.

Klein's lawyer, in a letter to the Department, said that was impossible. He said the Frankfurter Bank "could not and would not under any circumstances be able to furnish a list of contributors."

The lawyer said he was informed that the bank collects money from "many hundreds of individuals and companies and and other sources, including the Federal Republic (of Germany)."

He said he was told that the fund has "many purposes all over the world." Some of the contributions are "earmarked for specific uses in specific countries," he said.

Klein admitted that he knows who the directors of the committee are.

He identified the director general as a "Dr. Gerhard Hempel of Wiesbaden, a very prominent attorney for the German industrialists."

He said he would be willing to file a "private report" with the Justice Department "on condition that this information not be disclosed to my competitors. I don't want them stealing my clients."

Klein said his German sponsors are "active in other parts of the world. They get a lot of money for Latin America."

Asked if he thought the U.S. Government is unaware of the risks of a compromise with the Russians, Klein said, "I think the Government understands this very well, but the American people don't."

Klein's firm spent $27,398 on travel, $5057 on entertainment, $13,797 on phones and telegrams, and $5576 on postage last year from the committee's funds.

The German committee was formed early in 1960. The "Spirit of Camp David" had relaxed cold war tensions, and peace seemed just about to break out. A "summit conference" between President Eisenhower and Premier Khrushchev was scheduled for May.

Many conservative Germans were worried that a settlement between the United States and Russia would dash their hopes of reunifying their divided fatherland.

A number of German businessmen were already acquainted with Klein, a former national commander of the Jewish War Veterans. His firm had received more than $200,000 in five years from a group of German property owners who were trying to recover assets seized by the U.S. during World War II.

Klein was hired by the committee and assigned to promote "the cause of West Germany in the summit conference."

As required by law, Klein filed a report on his activities with the Foreign Agents Registration Section of the Justice Department.

He reported that he was supposed to "extend a campaign to the United

States to disseminate information here so that the American people may understand the serious problem facing Germany if there should be any compromise with the Soviets."

After the Berlin wall was built in August, 1961, Klein's next report to the Justice Department changed the wording of his assignment.

Now he was supposed to "promote the cause of the people of the Federal Republic of Germany in the struggle of the free Western world against Soviet Russia, in the fight for West Berlin and the cause of democracy's bulwark in West Germany."

Early in 1962 Klein said his purpose now was to convince Americans that "West Germany is a political, economic and military (NATO) ally of the world democracies."

"San Francisco Chronicle", March 1st 1963

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Further details of the work of the "Cold War Salesmen" was given in the American news weekly "Newsweek" on July 30th 1962. "Newsweek" reported that West German banker Hermann Abs is the king-pin of the German group of sponsors of Julius Klein's "public relations" job. Banker Abs was named by US investigators at the end of World War Two as one of the leading economic figures of nazi Germany.

One of the German nationals working in the Washington office of Julius Klein is Hans Globke Jr., son of West German State Secretary Globke, author of the anti-Semitic "Nuremberg Laws".

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Church Leader Protests

Church President Wilm, head of the Evangelical Church in West Germany's North Rhine-Westfalia Province, has protested against the distortion by the West German news agency DPA of an article he had written. The semi-official agency had re-written his article in order to avoid using the term "German Democratic Republic", which is regarded with great disfavour by the West German Government.

The church president stated:

"In my article I did not use the terms 'zonal representative', 'Soviet Zone', 'Government of the Soviet Zone' or 'Iron Curtain', but spoke of the 'Government of the GDR' and of 'Christians in the GDR'. I have learned to speak in this way from the Christian brothers and sisters in the GDR, with whom I feel a close affinity. They have accepted the state in which they live as the one granted them by God, and I recognise this decision."

Cold Warrior Blows Up

One of West Berlin's cold war activists was literally hoist with his own petard on March 10th, when he blew himself up while fusing a bomb. The dead man, Hans Bischoff, student of law at West Berlin University, was a member of a terrorist group responsible for a number of OAS-style bombings in West Berlin in recent months. The terror acts for which the group are believed to be responsible include repeated attacks with high explosives on the GDR frontier installations in Berlin; the recent bombing of the offices of Intourist, the Soviet Travel Agency in West Berlin; and acts of arson in various offices of the Socialist Unity Party in West Berlin.

Bischoff was arrested by West Berlin police after one fire on Socialist Unity Party premises, but released without any further action being taken. When West Berlin police searched Bischoff's house after the explosion which killed him, they discovered an armoury including 12 pounds of explosives made in West Germany, two sub-machine guns, an automatic with silencer and large quantities of ammunition. The explosion, apart from killing Bischoff and doing much damage, maimed a 58-year-old woman for life.

Bischoff had been a member of the neo-nazi Federation of German Students and the reactionary student society "Vandalia Teutonia" (Teutonic Vandals). In addition he had enrolled in the West Berlin police reserve.

It is a matter of public knowledge in West Berlin that the authorities there, in the interests of preserving the cold war status of the city, have turned a blind eye on the operations of various groups such as that of which Bischoff was a member. West Berlin Deputy Mayor Albertz, in charge of security questions, commenting on the deadly explosion, stated: "People should not handle explosives in such an amateur way".

"Neues Deutschland", leading East Berlin newspaper, commented: "West Berlin is a powder-barrel. It is no coincidence that the bombs are going off just now. The 'Ultras' are frightened. They are frightened of negotiations on the West Berlin question; they are frightened of a sensible compromise; they are frightened of peaceful co-existence."

Jailed for Holidays

West German police used force on March 4th to disperse a crowd of women who were protesting the imprisonment of two local leaders of the "Happy Holidays for All Children" organisation.

The two convicted women, Frau Elfriede Kautz of Hanover and Frau Gertrud Schröter of Celle were reporting to the women's prison in Vechta, West Germany, to serve one-year sentences for "endangering the state". The organisation in which they were locally active had arranged trips to summer camps for children whose parents could not otherwise afford holiday trips for them, and some of the children were sent each year to summer children's camps in the German Democratic Republic. This was the main reason for imprisoning the two women.

The "Happy Holidays for All Children" organisation, which has since been banned by the authorities, was perfectly legal at the time, and the women arranged the transportation of the children at reduced rates with officials of the state-owned railway.

In protest at the prison terms, the two women carried placards reading: "Two women – political prisoners for a year" and "A year in prison and five years' loss of citizenship privileges because we arranged pleasant holidays for needy children". These signs, and the fact that a hundred women with their children accompanied the two on their way to prison, aroused the police to tear up the signs and disperse the crowd.

In an open letter, the two women stressed their complete innocence of any crimes. They also pointed out that the man who framed the indictment against them, state prosecutor Ottersbach, had helped hand down illegal death sentences while serving at a nazi "Special Court" in Katowice, Occupied Poland, during the war.

Sandwiches in East Berlin

The Earl of Sandwich and his wife visited East Berlin in early March. The Earl met with People's Chamber Chairman Dieckmann, the president of the League for the United Nations, and other political leaders, while Lady Sandwich visited a modern orphan's home, an old age home and a club for old age pensioners. The Earl of Sandwich is better known under his previous title of Viscount Hinchingbrooke.

"The Times" Interviews GDR Bishop

"The Times" of London published a long interview with Dr Moritz Mitzenheim, Evangelical Bishop of Thuringia, on March 8th. Here is the interview, slightly condensed for reasons of space:

"Der Rote Moritz", "Red Maurice", as he is often referred to, has nothing of the rabid revolutionary in holy orders. He is a man of small stature, somewhat rotund, with a powerful head crowned by a shock of white hair — not, perhaps, of the stuff of which martyrs or ascetics are made, but breathing a deep Evangelical conviction.

Bishop Mitzenheim emphasized that since the agreement reached between representatives of the all-German Evangelical Church Synod and the east German Government in 1958, the freedom of conscience and of religious practice specifically guaranteed by the constitution of the German Democratic Republic had been faithfully observed.

"That", he went on, "is the main thing". It was also agreed that any unsettled issues should be argued out by both sides as the occasion arose. On the basis of this settlement, there have been many meetings at high, medium and lower levels. Their concrete results have safeguarded the work of the Church.

"For instance, it was agreed two years ago with the east German trade unions and Health Ministry that Church personnel working in hospitals be paid according to state tariffs. It was also settled that the pension of retired clergy, who in the GDR are not covered by social insurance and do not contribute, should be exempted from the income tax to which they had hitherto been liable.

"The Church has also had recognized the right to teach religion and the Bible on state school property, even if outside school hours and only by its own teachers."

He conceded that there were differences of application from one place to another, "but whenever a difficulty arises, I can always take it up with Herr Seigewasser, the State Secretary for Church Affairs — and local officials know this."

The Christian community in eastern Germany was flourishing. The Innere Mission (an Evangelical charity organization) was performing its work of mercy. The Church had its seminaries, its novitiates, its houses for deaconesses. Its theologians could study under state auspices. The GDR maintained six theological faculties in state universities.

"After earlier attemps to cut down the contribution to the Evangelical Church which it has taken over from both the Weimar Republic and the Nazi state, the GDR is making no trouble at all over it now, although it claims that it does so not from any legal obligation towards the Church, but from pure generosity.

"The important thing is that it is paid. In addition, the Church collects the Church tax through its own officials, unimpeded. It is significant that, while this is now voluntary, its total has not declined."

Ninety per cent of all the people of Thuringia, the bishop added, were still Christian — 70 per cent of them Evangelical and 10 per cent Roman Catholics. "There has been some falling away of the weak and the woolly minded. There are no Sunday Christians any more here: churchgoing is no longer a matter of convention. But the faith of those that have remained within the fold has been strengthened; and after a decline, numbers are now looking up again.

"The Evangelical Academy (a ministry for students) is very active — 500 students from various faculties at Jena attend Bible classes and Sunday worship. There are 14,000 choristers in my diocese. It is both ridiculous and sad that a well-informed British newspaper should have recently written that the performance of a Bach oratorio in the GDR was exceptional. Why, in nine cities official performances of his Christmas oratorio were staged last Christmas.

"It is not a matter of indifference to me that the state in east Germany is both Marxist and atheistic. But I cannot alter the facts. True to the doctrine of Luther and the Pauline epistle, I recognize the authority of the state in what pertains to its sphere, whether that state be Christian or not.

"Is there in any case such a thing as a Christian state any more than a Christian shoe factory, for instance? The question to me is not whether the state, or the shoe factory is Christian, but that as many people as possible within the state, or as many shoe makers, should be Christians. We are not a Church against socialism; but a Church for those men who within the socialist order still wish to be Christian.

"Obviously there is a definite atmosphere in the GDR, which is not favourable to the Church. But is it not the same in the west? Is not the difference largely that here in the GDR, we have theoretical materialism, while in west Germany there is practical materialism?

"Over there, too, there looms a long shadow of state religion — a danger we have all known well for the past 400 years. I do not want any state Church in east Germany.

"As I told Herr Ulbricht when he decorated me on my seventieth birthday two years ago with the Order of the Fatherland in Gold, the highest east German order, 'as Bishop of the Evangelical Church, I stand on different ground from many a member of the GDR Government. I am no Marxist. I am no politician. To take a stand on political issues is not my duty . . . the Church is not bound to a definite economic and social order, neither to the feudal, or to the capitalist, nor the socialist'."

To the question of what concessions had been necessary to purchase this freedom of worship, Bishop Mitzenheim answered with an unequivocal denial. "There has been no tampering with the work of the Church through concessions which would modify the teaching of the Gospel, and no adoption of mistaken positions towards the social order which obtains here.

The state had asked for no concessions, and had been given none. He knew he was attacked by certain circles within the Evangelical Church for having truck with the east German state. "Theologically, I have never been accused of deviation," he remarked. "But there is a distinct tendency of some people to identify the Church and themselves with western policies or with the capitalistic order, owing to the environments in which they live, or to some hankering after a 'restoration church'. These people have dragged the Church into the cold war."

It was often said in the west that the Church was the only intact fifth column against communism. It was an altogether wrong point of departure. The Church was not there to provide any fifth column; but to preach the faith.

Bishop Mitzenheim repeated that he was for normal relations between the two German states. There should be more east-west conversations.

("The Times", March 8th 1963)

W. Germany's Social Democrats

By a West German Correspondent

The political situation in West Germany is rapidly changing; Chancellor Adenauer's 14-year-old right-wing regime is losing its unchallenged ascendancy, but at the same time the Social Democratic Party, instead of offering a clear alternative, is being urged by its leadership to prop up the creaking cold-war structure.

The Social Democratic Party (SPD) is the main component of the West German "left", and it has a more than century-old history tracing back to some of Karl Marx's earliest supporters. In recent years, however, this second-largest West German party, with its 203 seats in the Bundestag and its control of provincial governments in three of the Federal Republic's ten provinces, has been abandoning its former principles and moving closer to Konrad Adenauer's ruling Christian Democratic Union (CDU).

While giving up all opposition to Adenauer, the SPD is also trying to impose conformity on other members of the socialist or workers' movement in West Germany; people who stick to the traditional principles or call for real opposition are labelled "fellow-travellers of Ulbricht" and face persecution by the West German political police.

The man who is leading this campaign for respectability at all costs, and who has the one goal of getting the SPD into a coalition government with the CDU, is Deputy Chairman Herbert Wehner, pipe-smoking former left-winger who turned a major flip-flop about five years ago to become right-wing boss of the party.

In recent weeks, which saw the stirrings of more vigorous attacks on Adenauer within his own Christian Democratic party, Herbert Wehner came out in support of the aged chancellor. In an interview in the reactionary newspaper "Christ und Welt", he said: "I would like to retain and rescue ... the essential features of what has been Adenauer's policy". He called for a "broad coalition" composed of the CDU and SPD instead of the present "little coalition" formed by the CDU and the big business, quasi-liberal Free Democratic Party (FDP).

In 1945, when the Social Democratic Party was reconstituted in the western part of Germany, it adopted a very radical programme, although all membership attempts to join the Communists and heal the split in the working class movement, so fateful in Hitler's rise to power, were completely squelched. (In eastern Germany the two parties joined to form the Socialist Unity Party, the main party in the GDR today.) The "anti-Red" tendency in the SPD which soon developed, fostered by the western allies, is perhaps the only plank in the SPD platform which has remained unchanged for the past 15 years. One by one it has dropped its traditional ties with the theories of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, stricken nationalisation plans from its programme, repudiated all talk of classes or class struggle, and even dropped its traditional red flag.

This trend was criticised by the Communist Party and numerous active Social Democrats, but the Communist Party was outlawed in West Germany in 1956 and most vocal adherents of Marxism were ousted from the SPD.

On certain other sectors of SPD policy, however, there has been very loud and strong opposition. Most spectacular in recent weeks was the SPD clash with the British Labour Party's new head, Harold Wilson. Mr Wilson, basing himself on the Labour Party Conference Resolution of 1961, has repeatedly called for a more realistic attitude in German questions, including de-facto recognition of the GDR, approval of present German boundaries with Poland and Czechoslovakia, and an atom-free zone in Central Europe.

This went against the SPD grain, and Herr Wehner protested just as loudly as leaders of the CDU. First of all, if Britain should give even de-facto recognition to the GDR, this would overturn the theory, which the SPD shares with Adenauer, that the GDR does not exist. It would mean a big loss in prestige for the Adenauer-SPD rearmament theory with its constant warnings that the GDR and the Soviet Union are just waiting for the chance to swoop on Hamburg, Munich and Bonn.

It also threatens another aspect of current SPD policy. Several years ago, while hunting for election votes, the SPD made peace with the West German Landsmannschaften, the rabid organisations of Germans demanding return of former German territories in Poland and the Soviet Union and the annexation of a large part of Czechoslovakia. Like the West German Government, the SPD officially backs many of these claims, and has Wenzel Jaksch, a well-known publicist for the claims to Czechoslovak Sudetenland, on its executive committee. These West German claims backed by the SPD would lose much of their vigour if a British Labour Government were to recognise present frontiers.

Wilson's statements sent the SPD leaders into a panic, therefore; they immediately sent Fritz Erler, their military expert, to London to put Harold Wilson straight "in no uncertain terms", as Wehner stated. But Wehner and Erler failed. Although Mr Wilson agreed with them on certain points regarding West Berlin, he remained firm on the other questions.

Another issue where the SPD has moved close to the Adenauer position is the question of supporting NATO and atomic arms for West German troops. This year, as in the past few years, the SPD leadership has done its utmost to hinder members from participating in Easter anti-atom marches, despite the fact that the SPD's titular head, Erich Ollenhauer, was once chairman of the stillborn "Fight Atomic Death" Committee. Large numbers of rank-and-file SPD members, especially the younger ones, have resisted the SPD approval of Adenauer's militarist policies, but Herbert Wehner has been doing everything possible to subdue all such resistance. In late February he met with leaders of the Young Socialists, the "Falken" youth organisation, and the Social Democratic student organisation, and threatened all three that if they did not refrain from opposition to NATO policies, atomic arms and other parts of the SPD-Adenauer programme, they might very well lose their considerable financial subsidies from the parent party. One large local youth group has already rebelled openly on the Easter March issue; the weeks ahead will show whether or not others will conform under pressure.

The major domestic issue at present, and cause of most difficulty to Wehner and his lieutenants, is the question of the emergency legislation. SPD support is needed for this legislation, scheduled to come into force this summer, since a two-thirds majority in Parliament is necessary.

This dangerously elastic package of laws includes everything from air raid defence measures to clauses granting emergency powers to a small group of top leaders, who could seize all property and conscript all men and women for any purpose during an emergency, whether the emergency be an attack from without, a natural disaster or an "emergency from within". The proposed laws have been compared to special powers granted by the pre-Hitler constitution which were used to help the nazis to power.

West German trade unions in particular have taken alarm at these proposed laws, for they represent a very real threat to the right to strike. At the Trade Union Federation's last congress in October, a majority of delegates voted, after a hot debate, to oppose the measures vigorously.

This was a dramatic step, for it was the first real split between the SPD and the trade unions, which have always been very close to the SPD in the past. Since October, most of the federation's sixteen member unions have maintained this decision to fight the emergency legislation despite all Wehner's efforts.

Herbert Wehner is now pushing a plan to form special SPD fractions or caucuses in trade union groups at all levels, headed by party officials appointed from above. These groups will have the task of imposing SPD leadership policies on the unions, whether the membership like them or not. Main target of these tactics is Otto Brenner and his militant union of iron, steel, and other metal workers; Brenner has not only spoken most forcefully against the emergency laws but has also advocated the SPD's long-forgotten demand for nationalisation of key industries.

The issues are all closely connected: atomic weapons, the eastern frontiers, NATO, the Bonn-Paris link and the emergency legislation. Many members of the Social Democratic Party oppose the Wehner policies on these questions. Whether they can unite with the trade unions, the opponents of atomic armaments and other groups alarmed at West German developments and resist the powerful Wehner steamroller tactics will depend on two main things: coming economic developments in the very fluid West German situation, and the support which reasonable and peaceful solutions to the German problem find in Britain, America and other western countries.

Book Review

The Appeasers

"The Appeasers" by Martin Gilbert and Richard Gott. Weidenfeld and Nicolson, London, 42 shillings.

People who remember the years of "appeasement", when the politicians of Britain and France sold Europe down the river to the nazis, will be fascinated by this book. It tells in great detail the appalling and often ridiculous story of the British politicians, from Premier Neville Chamberlain on down, who thought that they could come to terms with Hitler by paying him to go away.

Much of this story was told at the time by Claud Cockburn's brilliant newsletter "The Week", and in 1940 by Michael Foot in the book "Guilty Men", one of the finest political polemics of the century, but they could only lift the fringe of the curtain. In the more than 20 years which have passed since then, documents from the files of the British, American and German Foreign Ministries have become available, and many of the "Men of Munich" have written their memoirs. As a result, the two young authors of this book, both of whom were born in the period when appeasement was in full swing, have been able to piece the whole lamentable story together much more thoroughly than has ever been done before.

This is a basic book on a basic subject, telling the story of the betrayal of peace day by day, and even hour by hour in the most important periods; despite the fact that the authors have scrupulously footnoted almost every fact, the book is eminently readable.

If the book has a fault, it may be that it sometimes sticks too closely to its brief; the authors set themselves the task of detailing the diplomatic and semi-diplomatic steps which led up to the Second World War, and have thus left out of account to a large degree the economic background and the development of public opinion in the countries concerned. But many other books have been published on these subjects, so it may be good that the authors of "The Appeasers" have kept themselves within such narrow limits. I feel too that more stress might well have been placed on the "anti-Red trauma" which, in the last analysis, moved the Men of Munich. This motivation is suggested once or twice, but unless it is given a central place, the actions of Sir Horace Wilson, the grey eminence of the Appeasers, and his supporters, make no sense at all.

And this is not simply a history book. The balance of power in the world has changed greatly since the 1930s, but there are still today western statesmen who want to play the game of forming a bloc with the unreconstructed militarists who run West Germany. This description of the scene in the early 1930s could with modifications be applied to today: "Many English diplomats, politicians and men of influence insisted upon interpreting German developments in such a way as to suggest patterns of cooperation that did not exist. Only by ignoring what was happening in Germany could those patterns be found... Nazi Germany was new, active, outspoken; a nation which had emerged from defeat, and economic and social chaos. It sought inner discipline and external power. German power in Europe attracted the appeasers. A strong Germany would prevent the spread of communism in Europe. It would help create a European economic bloc with which it would be an advantage to trade... For the appeaser Anglo-German friendship was an essential counterweight to the harmful influence of Russia."

This is not just a book for those who remember the events of the 1930s. It is a book for everyone interested in what went wrong once before and must not be allowed to go wrong again.

John Peet

4000 New Communists

Four thousand West Germans joined the Communist Party (KPD) during a membership campaign which ended in early March, the party's Central Committee announced. The Communist Party was banned in West Germany in 1956 and activities in its behalf have been punished by prison sentences in many cases.

The Central Committee also announced that many new party branches had been formed in factories and that more than one hundred new factory newspapers were being published.

The campaign, which was called the most successful in years, was in preparation of the coming party congress which will be held secretly sometime towards the end of 1963.

Meet the People (3)

WOMAN IN MANAGEMENT

by Helga Preuss

Hildegard Felski is a very busy woman. During the relatively short time I spent with her in the meeting room of the construction firm where she works, she had to answer three important telephone calls, she had to leave the room once for a short consultation, and she was interrupted several times by colleagues with questions.

She is the only woman member of the nine-man management of this nationally-owned Berlin construction firm. I asked her how she attained her present job as head of the planning department.

"My life has not been a very interesting one", she stated. Yet I later found out that she has been awarded six times with the Medal for Distinguished Labour, and only people doing a very fine job are given such awards.

She was born in 1909, the daughter of a minor post office official. Her parents made it possible for her to go to junior high school and then to commercial school, although tuition was charged for both schools in those days. After completing her schooling, she worked as a "beginner" in an office for a tiny salary. She became ill in 1929 and was sacked as a result, which resulted in a year's unemployment. She would have starved if her parents had not helped her out.

By chance she finally found a job with the "Beamtenbund", an association of white-collar workers and minor officials then controlled by the Social Democratic Party. The association was "taken over" by the nazis in 1933; the employees were kept on.

Hildegard shared an office with six other girls; occasionally she was "loaned" to a single boss and typed or took short-hand for him alone for a while. "It was true," she said, "we were really 'loaned out' like a lathe or a typewriter. I started work at 8 in the morning and worked till 5 o'clock. My boss arrived at noon and started to work in the afternoon. Just before quitting time he would dictate long letters which I had to write immediately. I couldn't even think of wanting to go home punctually. Usually I had to write and write until about 7:00 p.m. I had registered and paid for evening courses and wanted very much to continue my education as much as possible. But I couldn't go to these courses because I was not given the free time which I had a right to."

In 1945 when the war ended she returned to her office — no-one had worked during the weeks of the battle for Berlin — but found only rubble. Nothing else was left. The whole of Berlin was one big stretch of rubble. She spent no time waiting but did what so many other thousands of Berlin women did at the time; she cleared rubble, knocking off mortar from thousands of badly-needed bricks. Every morning brought the start of another very hard day's work, although she had only one or two slices of dry bread in her pocket for the day.

The construction firm which hired her was nationalised in 1946. One day soon after, Hildegard was called into the firm office, in a nearby shed, and asked if she could substitute for another girl who had been doing the office work. Before long she was working regularly at this job, and the office was removed to a nearby building. Hildegard now became the "firm statistician", drawing up all required figures on number of employees, the summer holidays due each one, the production figures and profits of the firm, and so forth.

After a while the firm was again enlarged, she changed her office to one in a larger and much pleasanter building, and then started to work in the planning department.

She began to go to the Economics School run by the city government, sacrificing two evenings a week in order to learn more about her new job.

This course was a good one, she worked hard, and she soon knew a great deal about her field; when the structure of the firm was altered once again, she was appointed manager of the whole planning department.

Is she happy? "Not completely," she answered, "there are lots of things left to be desired." She likes her job very much, and she gets a very good salary for it, but the responsibility and worries that go with it are also considerable. She believes that even as a stenographer she could make do nowadays. "In any case, there is a huge difference between my former life and the life of my colleagues here today. They aren't hindered from improving their qualifications, in fact the firm encourages them to do so all the time, and even arranges for them to do part of their studying during work time. There's an entirely different atmosphere here in many other ways as well. I would never have dared to make a suggestion on improving work methods or organisation in the old days! They would all have thought I was crazy. But nowadays my colleagues get bonuses for such suggestions!"

Hildegard has never forgotten the conditions she once worked under and how she was treated. A younger woman who works with her told me that she is well-known in the firm for her considerate manner with everyone and for her very human understanding for those working under her in her department. She was brow-beaten and exploited too long herself by her bosses to think of doing anything in a similar manner herself.

"I learnt my lesson the hard way, but very well," she said. "I know how human understanding and consideration on the part of the managers can improve the atmosphere in any job."

The young woman from her department told me that Hildegard always sticks to these principles. She is the only member of the factory management who insists on doing smaller, marginal jobs by herself, whereas her male colleagues always call in their secretaries. She would never think of dictating a short memo to a stenographer which she could do herself in a few minutes. She would never think of asking her assistants to make or fetch some coffee or to fetch cigarettes.

"It is still difficult for some people to learn new ways of thinking, even under our present new conditions. Many, especially among my male colleagues — who did not go through the same school of experience as I did — still act sometimes the way my bosses used to act in the old days. We women often have a hard job to stand up and get our rights. Of course, we have it much easier now, since we have the law on our side. The basic rights of equality have been granted us, but not even the best laws in the world can spare us the daily job of fighting to see them carried out properly." She smiled as she said, "I shall be helping my other colleagues in this fight!"

West German Workers See GDR, Tell Views

More than 1400 West German workers visited the German Democratic Republic in mid-March to take part in the traditional Workers' Conference in Leipzig, which is held at the same time as the Leipzig Trade Fair. The visitors, many of them officials in local trade union or Social Democratic Party groups, remained anonymous during their visits because of the jail sentences and sackings often handed out to West German workers who visit the GDR.

After their visits, many of the visitors summed up the impressions they had from their trip to the GDR and especially to the fair:

"I couldn't believe that the people of the GDR were almost dying of hunger and were on the edge of economic collapse, as television, radio and newspapers hammer into us every day. That is why I came to the GDR. My first impression is that we have been systematically lied to and deceived, in order to incite us against the GDR."

A metal-worker

"I would never have believed that the factories in the GDR were in a position to manufacture everything from the simplest product all the way to ocean-going freighters and highly-developed automatic calculators. If developments continue further along these lines, they will not only have an influence on the GDR itself and on the socialist countries. Now I can really understand why the propaganda against the GDR is constantly increasing in West Germany."

A member of the Social Democratic Party

"I was quite impressed by the number and variety of products which you have exhibited here at the fair. But I must tell you frankly that I think your cars, for example, are worse and also more expensive than those in West Germany. I don't know why that is, but I have noticed this difference."

A worker from Tübingen, West Germany

"I am in the GDR for the first time. I am very greatly impressed by the things achieved here by the working class. I certainly did not expect anything like this. Many people tried to convince me not to come to Leipzig, but I would have been terribly angry at myself if I hadn't come. There were lots of things I didn't believe in what they tell us about the GDR and the Soviet Union in West Germany. But now I don't believe any of their propaganda."

A worker from Mainz

"I am always impressed by the high level of education in the GDR. The things that took me years of hard experience to pick up can be learned by people in the GDR in a short time. I came to the Leipzig Fair for the first time in 1958, and I must say that when I compare the present level and the quality of the exhibited products with those of 1958, I see that there has been a huge step forward. And, I am certain, that is largely because every talented person can continue his education here."

A worker from Wuppertal

"I have thought certain things over in these past few days. Your idea of socialism and all the things you have planned are really not bad at all. But the economic practice here in the GDR is really still bad. If we could combine your ideas with the capital and economic power of West Germany, then Germany would be a country which could make rapid progress forwards."

A Social-Democrat from Essen

"The influence of the GDR is growing in West Germany all the time. Whether people admit it or not, in many ways they take the GDR as an example, even when they call it the "East Zone"; that can be seen in our press all the time. Who would have considered printing so much about your party congress in our papers two years ago? Nowadays it is much easier to talk with people about conditions in the GDR, even where there is no agreement on the subject right away. Earlier there was immediate resistance to anything we had to say, in fact, people wouldn't even listen to us."

A member of the transport and public workers union

Leipzig Fair Boosts Trade

Businessmen from 87 countries attended the annual Spring Industrial Fair in the GDR city of Leipzig in early March and signed contracts with GDR trade organisations totalling more than 4,000 million marks. The many contracts and contacts made between socialist and capitalist countries showed once again that Leipzig is the most important East-West meeting place in world trade.

Industrial products and consumer goods from 9,000 companies in 63 countries were shown at this year's Fair. Firms from Algeria, Bolivia, British Guiana, Guinea and Nigeria were present for the first time. Strong pressure from the West German Government kept many important West German industrial concerns from exhibiting in Leipzig this year, but numerous companies from other West European countries moved in swiftly to take the exhibition space left vacant. Despite pressure from Bonn, 12,300 businessmen from West Germany and 3700 from West Berlin attended the Fair.

GDR products creating most interest among foreign buyers, aside from the traditional high-quality machine tools, optical and precision instruments and business machines, were special looms producing the increasingly popular Malimo cloth, a new kind of practical and very inexpensive new textile developed by GDR engineers. A large order was placed by a United States firm for Malimo looms.

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BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

It is annoying to be told about a new book you will never get a chance to read, or a film you are unlikely ever to see, but I should like to say a few words about a new crime film which is pulling in the audiences in East Berlin these days. It is called "Fog", and with a title like that, it can obviously only play in Britain. As British readers probably know, and all other readers certainly know, popular mythology about the British Isles in most parts of the world lays down that they are shrouded perpetually in fog, and inhabited almost entirely by gaunt bowler-hatted men with ginger moustaches, and tweedy ladies with buck teeth.

Bowlers

But what is perhaps most notable about this new film, made by the GDR film company DEFA, is that apart from a certain over-emphasis on bowler hats, the film-makers have managed to present a pretty plausible picture of Britain, although British visa bans made it impossible for them do any of the shooting on location in Britain.

The film is a thriller, based on a nazi war-time crime and its repercussions in a small British port today, and it manages to hold its tension to the very last minute. But I don't want to talk about the story of the film, but about the loving care which went into seeing that the little details were right. It is easy enough to put your actors into English-looking clothes. Uniforms are trickier, particularly police helmets, which almost never look quite right in foreign films. But where on earth do you get English-looking railway engines in the GDR? All continental engines are covered with yards of exterior piping and look quite different. Director Joachim Hasler solved this problem very simply; whenever an engine appears in the background harbour scenes it is blowing out clouds of steam, and you don't get a good look at it.

Congratulations to DEFA on a very good effort, and an effort which came off.

Fair

Some readers of GERMAN REPORT, especially those in the German Democratic Republic, may be surprised that we do not deal at greater length in this issue with the Leipzig Trade Fair which has just closed. The reason is really quite simple. In the past, and particularly in the early years of the German Democratic Republic, the very fact that far-sighted merchants from many countries came to exhibit their wares at Leipzig in the GDR was news-worthy; it showed that the GDR did in fact exist, and was a factor in European and in world trade. Every year more and more traders attended the Fair, despite frantic West German attempts to quarantine the GDR, and for a long time it was exciting to count up growing participation, and to name the important new firms and countries represented.

Today, this position has stabilised, and from the point of view of a political journal like GERMAN REPORT the Leipzig Fair is just another international trade fair, though a very important one, and will be dealt with as such.

Oblivion

On another page of this issue I warmly recommend the book "The Appeasers", written by a couple of up-and-coming British historians, and shall not repeat my praise here. I am particularly grateful to the book for rescuing from oblivion one of the most gorgeous passages ever produced by Winston Churchill, at that time a bitter critic of the policy being pursued by the Tory Government in Britain. Speaking in the House of Commons in February 1938, he first heaped coals of barbed praise on the heads of Sir John Simon and Sir Samuel Hoare, and then went on to deal with Sir Thomas Inskip (hulking and stupid-looking) and Sir Kingsley Wood (small, cherubic and stupid-looking). Churchill said:

"There are the Minister for the Co-ordination of Defence (Inskip) and the Minister of Health (Kingsley Wood), two most able Ministers, very impressive, physically, in their different ways... Having revived our defences, co-ordinated them and brought this great matter into a thoroughly satisfactory position, with the assistance of only a single secretary and a lady typist, I think it would be very inadvisable to remove him (Inskip) from the sphere in which the full fruition of his labours is about to be achieved.

"As to the Minister of Health (Kingsley Wood), I should very much have liked to see his cherubic bland smile confronting the smiling dictators; but in his case he is absolutely necessary where he is. The fact is that we never begin to realise how good these Ministers are in their jobs until we begin to think of them for some other job."

But to get the full joy out of this passage you really should buy or borrow "The Appeasers" and read it in context, glancing now and then at the collection of excellent photographs of the main actors with which it is decorated.

So far I have not noted any reference to "The Appeasers" in the West German press. The British authors of the book should prepare themselves for some shocks: I confidently predict that a number of West German historians and journalists will hurl themselves on the volume with cries of pleasure, shouting: "Look, it wasn't Hitler and the nazis who started the war; it was everybody else".

Monsters

Some of our letters from distant countries tend to be a little odd in phrasing, but we can generally puzzle out what the writers mean; and we certainly don't feel superior about such letters, because we know how hard it is to write in a language other than your own. But we are still wondering what a reader in Indonesia wants: he asked us in the course of a letter in otherwise excellent English to send him some pictures, posters and monsters. "We shall hang them on the walls and they will help us greatly with our studies," he adds.

We try to do what we can with such requests, though I rather doubt whether we can find any monsters piled in a corner of the office. While I am on the subject, let me just note that we cannot cope with requests for pen-pals; we simply have not got the necessary staff and facilities to find suitable partners.

But talking about monsters, we do still have some copies of a pretty hair-raising volume of documents on the life and crimes of Dr Hans Globke, the man who drafted Hitler's anti-Semitic legislation and is now Dr Adenauer's right-hand. A free copy to all comers as long as supplies last.

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